GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3244
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2003
COMPLAINTS FROM CABLE CUSTOMERS
CHANDRA NATH SINGH

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the cable operators in Delhi and National Capital Territoryregion have divided the areas among themselves for providing cable connections on their own thereby violating various provisions of the Consumer Act;

(b) if so, whether these cable operators have also not been broadcasting DD-I and DD-II in the prime band;

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against the cable operators; particularly Ranga Cables, Panchkuyia Road, New Delhi, P.G. Cables, NDMC Shops, R.KAshram Marg, New Delhi and Eagle Cable Network, Abhay Khand-I, Indira Puram, Ghaziabad, and

(d) the further steps taken by the Government to stop such practices by cable operator in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d) : As per the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, (hereinafter referred to as the `Act`), any person who is operating or is desirous of operating a cable television network has to be registered as a cable operator under the said Act. There is no bar on the number of cable operators, operating in a particular area, as long as they meet the eligibility criteria and are registered, as required under the provisions of the said Act.

Under Section 8 of the Act, every cable operator shall, retransmit at least two Doordarshan terrestrial channels and one regional language channel of a State in the prime band. Arrangements exist for monitoring of Doordarshan channels on the cable T.V. networks for ensuring proper implementation of the provisions of the said Act.

Chief Executive Officer, Prasar Bharati has written to the Chief Secretaries of allStates/ U.Ts. to suitably advise local authorities to ensure proper implementation of the provisions of the Cable Act. Superintending Engineers and Station Engineers have been advised to remain in touch with the local authorities and. have been asked to maintain close liaison with the cable operators and inspect the `cable T.V.head ends` and furnish monthly channel placement reports.

Under the provisions of the said Act, the authorized officers have been vested with the powers to seize equipment in cases of violation of compulsory transmission of DDn channels.